in August 1995 to undertake activities in order to promote infrastructure facility in the country. The endeavour of the Government is to achieve sustained growth of tourist facilities in the private sector and to ensure high standards of quality in their services.

(b) According to Accommodation Assessment Study conducted by Ministry of Tourism in 30 centres, the room demand by the year 2005 is projected to be 1.25 lakhs rooms.

(c) and (d) Tourism has been given the status of the industry and several incentives have been made available both by the Centraland Slate Governments.

These incentives are:—

- Interest subsidy on hotel loans
- Fiscal incentives under income tax Act
- Import of special items under concessional custom duty/EPCG scheme etc.

**IITTM Branch at Hyderabad**

5460. DR.Y. LAKSHMI PRASAD: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) wheather Andhra Pradesh Government has requested to help the State in getting a branch of the Indian Institute of Tourism and Travel Management at Hyderabad; and

(b) if so, the action taken in the matter to encourage tourism in the country?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI ANANTHKUMAR): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Because of the resource constraints the Government has advised the State Government to set up the Chapter under its own Plan on the pattern of Kerala Institute of Tourism and travel Studies (KITTS).

**Arrival ot tourists in Assam**

5461. SHRIMATI BASANTI SARMA: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) the number of foreign tourists v/ho visited Assam during the last tnree years; and

(b) the details of foreign exchange earned from this State during this period?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI ANANTHKUMAR): (a) According to the statistics available from the State Government, the number of foreign tourists who visited Assam during the last three years are as follows:

| Year | Total number of fore'gn tourists |
|---|---|
| 1997 | 723 |
| 1998 | 631 |
| 1999 | 795 |

(b) The estimates of foreign exchange are not available State-wise. However, the estimated foreign exchange earnings from tourism during the last three years are as follows:

| Year | Estimated foreign exchange earnings (Rs. in crores) |
|---|---|
| 1997 | 10725.64 |
| 1998 | 11950.78 |
| 1999 | 13041.81 |

**Setting up of Heritage Hotels**

5462. SHRI ANANTA SETHI: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) the number of heritage hotels set up by Government and private sector;

(b) the details of their location; and

(c) the details of the incentives provided to the private sector to set up heritage hotels?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI ANANTHKUMAR): (a) and (b) Presently there are 62 hotels under the Heritage category which are on the approved list of the Ministry of Tourism. Majority of these Heritage Hotels are located in Rajasthan, Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh and Himchal Pradesh and are mostly in the private sector.

(c) Various incentives are available to the approved Heritage Hotels and Heritage Hotel Projects,which include Income Tax Exemption, Interest Subsidy, import of special items, concessional custom duty on imports.